

## Army National Guard opens new Education Support Center at Camp Robinson

by MAJ Hal Abbenhaus, DANTES Reserve Component Advisor

On 18 November 2002, the Army National Guard (ARNG) opened the Education Support Center (ESC) in the National Guard Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The ESC replaces the Army National Guard Institute which closed in March 2002.

Ms. Sherry Sims, former Arkansas ARNG State Education Services

ments of those customers. All other ARNG personnel are encouraged to apply for this program. They will be served in the order their completed applications are received. They can start the process by calling toll free 1-866-628-5999 and requesting an application. Eventually the application will be available on the ARNG Virtual Armory web site.

Once the ESC has received the

day timeframe. The three degree plans per customer will be the fastest track degree, an MOS-related degree, and a state/local degree. Every degree plan will be from a regionally accredited SOC network school. Currently, there are 17 universities/colleges loaded into the AutoDegree Planning software with more to be added.

The ESC strives to provide cus-



**The Army National Guard Education Support Center is located in the National Guard Professional Education Center at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas.**

Officer, is the new Director of the ESC. She and a staff of 11 will provide ARNG soldiers, their spouses, and ARNG civilian employees with direct support in the accomplishment of personal academic development goals. This direct support will be provided primarily by offering quality degree program choices.

When the Army National Guard Institute closed, more than a thousand ARNG customers had already applied for the program. The ESC, according to Ms. Sims, will initially prioritize supporting the degree plan require-

completed application and verified a customer's eligibility, they will review college credit already earned by the customer via the AutoDegreePlanning software program. This software can access Army training and personnel databases that contain information on courses attended. An ESC Military Credit Analyst will likely E-mail the customer to obtain evidence of additional information such as transcripts, licensing certificates, etc.

Once the packet is complete, customers will be provided three degree plans within a projected 30-

tomers with degree plans that match their specific requests. An exception would be a customer who already has two associate degrees and requests a degree plan for another. A counselor will contact that customer and recommend, in this case, a bachelor's degree plan.

Once degree plans are received, customers have no obligation to use the plans. If they choose to do so, it is important that they contact their

**continued on page 2, ESC**

### Help schools to access EFT TA information

We get calls from schools that have received electronic fund transfer (EFT) payments and do not know how to credit the funds to students' accounts. Please help us inform your schools how to access information that accompanies EFT payments.

The information provided by DFAS with an EFT payment to a banking institution includes all the same data that would be provided with a paper check:

- amount
- source of the payment
- contract number
- invoice number(s)
- DFAS voucher number
- invoice date

However, the bank is only required to furnish their customer the following:

- amount
- source of the payment
- date received

If the school requires the additional information, the bank can provide it but it will also charge for the additional service.

The problem occurs when the school is notified that its banking institution received a sum of money on a specified date from DFAS Pensacola. The school believes it has no way to tell which student account should be credited.

Since this situation creates problems for all DFAS EFT recipients, not

just schools, the DFAS solution is to post payment transactions to their web site.

Schools (and individuals) can use the DFAS web site to inquire about the status of a payment or to determine other information related to a DFAS payment.

- ❶ Go to <http://www.dfas.mil>
- ❷ Click on "MONEY MATTERS"
- ❸ Under "MONEY MATTERS," click on "DFAS Vendor Reference Tool/DSSN"
- ❹ Find "Non-MOCAS System" and click on "Query by Contract Number"
- ❺ Enter the DANTES Document Number in the block labeled "Contract Number"
- ❻ Click on "Find Payment"
- ❼ Use the information provided to find the answer to your question

DANTES Document Numbers are provided by DANTES in monthly reports to Army National Guard ESOs via National Guard Bureau and to Army Reserve ESSs via Army Reserve Personnel Command. ESOs and ESSs can also E-mail [tahelp@voled.doded.mil](mailto:tahelp@voled.doded.mil) to request Document Numbers for specific TA payments.

Payments are listed on the web site for 3 to 4 months before being deleted.

### DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs update

#### Grantham University

Grantham University recently introduced not only its new name (formerly Grantham College of Engineering), but also its new, accredited associate and bachelor's degree programs in Business Administration. Grantham offers a military scholarship, free books and software, and credit for military training.

For more information, visit <http://www.grantham.edu> or speak with a military enrollment specialist at 800-955-2527.

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#### ESC FROM 1

respective state Education Officer to receive specific guidance on the availability of tuition assistance and other services.

More than half of the ESC's employees are current, prior, or retired military. All degree planners (counselors) and the military credit analysts have bachelor's degrees with higher education experience.

Future ESC initiatives are to develop a user-friendly web site with electronic versions of the application form and a question and answer informative program. They also plan to post electronic copies of degree plans on the ESC web site so that state Education Officers can access and provide more comprehensive counseling support.

Keep an eye on the Virtual Armory and the DANTES web site (<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>) for updated information.

## Calendar

### February

7	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
8	LSAT

### March

8-12	Praxis* # (See below.)
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### April

4	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
14-18	CLEP General English Composition w/Essay*
14-19	GRE Subject*
26-30	Praxis*

### Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

\*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

#March 8-12 are correct dates for March. *DEPH Praxis* pages II-9-15 to II-9-27 incorrectly list March 8-13.

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/examinations/02-03cal.doc](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/02-03cal.doc)

## GED testing: 1 year later

Congratulations on doing an outstanding job of administering the totally new 2002 GED examination this past year. The new and more complicated answer sheet, test booklets, and the dreaded eight-page Demographic Form proved no match for your expertise. Thank you for your professionalism.

To add to your expertise, the following information is provided:

- Through an agreement with Maine and GEDTS, military members and overseas eligible family members who do not qualify in any other state because of residency requirements can apply to Maine for the Maine High School Equivalency Diploma. However, they must test at a DANTES Test Center. In the past, there were other states that did not require residency but many of these states, i.e., New Jersey, now have a residency requirement.
- The Language Arts Writing test and the Mathematics test each have two parts that must be administered in the proper sequence, timed separately, and taken in one session. For example, administer the Math Part I followed immediately by the Math Part II during the same test session.
- Two new forms of the GED are distributed to DANTES test centers each year starting in January and are valid through

31 December. If you order a GED in December, you must complete testing on that form by 31 December.

As always, the DANTES Examination Program stands ready to answer any question you might have concerning GED testing.

## March deadline for ordering ASE exams

The deadline for ordering the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) examinations is 21 March.

The ASE test dates for the May administrative cycle are as follows:

Conus	Overseas
6, 8, 13 May	6, 7, 8 May

TCOs in overseas locations should order their exams in early March to ensure ASE/ACT can process them by the deadline. Please make sure all candidates complete a *Spring 2003 Registration Form*. Send the form in with the *DANTES ASE/ACT Examination Order Form*.

For more information, E-mail [certprog@voled.doded.mil](mailto:certprog@voled.doded.mil) or call DSN 922-1360 or (850) 452-1360.

### Initial conversion period over for DISCOVER

The window for conversion to the Internet delivery of the DISCOVER program is closed. Unless we received notification by 4 January, your center will continue to receive the program via CD-ROM.

Requests for conversion to Internet delivery received after 4 January will be converted based upon funds available in the contract. If no excess funds are available, requests will not convert until our January 2004 update.

If you have any questions on this action, please contact Vince Harmon, DSN 922-1884/1763 or (850) 452-1884/1763, fax ext. 1588, or E-mail [counseling@voled.doded.mil](mailto:counseling@voled.doded.mil) for any changes.

### CAI good tool for career planning

The Career Assessment Inventory (CAI) is an objective vocational interest inventory that compares occupational interests and personality preferences with those of individuals in over 100 specific careers. The Enhanced Version offered by DANTES focuses on careers requiring a secondary education.

#### Applications:

Guidance counselors with the military use CAI materials for career guidance, adult career development, and human resource development. It can be useful in:

- Helping students focus on the patterns of interest that are important in making educational and occupational choices.
- Assisting in identifying a career direction and selecting major areas of study.
- Advising individuals who are reentering the workforce or considering a career change.
- Screening job applicants and providing career development assistance.

#### Features:

The CAI provides occupational scales in 111 occupations requiring varying amounts of postsecondary education (up to graduate levels).

The Enhanced Version of CAI enables counselors to explore a variety of career possibilities with the client.

The combined gender scales allow for the broadest interpretation of survey results.

The following materials, with their DANTES Stock numbers, are needed to administer the CAI:

- *CAI Manual*: Stock number 1114
- *CAI Profile Inventory*: Stock number 1113
- *CAI Interpretative Inventory*: Stock number 1115
- *CAI for Family Members*: Family members may take the CAI at a very reasonable fee. A non-prepaid Inventory, Stock number 1125, may be ordered from DANTES. Family members must pay the following fees: \$10.25 for Profile reports; \$13.50 for Interpretative reports.

### Counselor reference tools available

DANTES has received the 2003 version of the college financial aid booklet entitled *Need A Lift?* It is published by the American Legion and contains an excellent section called "Educational Benefits for Veterans and Dependents." To order, education centers should specify Stock number 2402 on the DANTES Material Request Form. The limit is 200 per year.

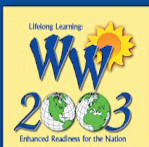
For questions contact DANTES' Reference Publications Manager, Sheila Nyjordet at DSN 922-1763 or (850) 452-1763 or E-mail her at [refpubs@voled.doded.mil](mailto:refpubs@voled.doded.mil).

Materials for those who wish to apply for federal financial aid are available from DANTES for the 2003-2004 school year. To order the *Free Application for Federal Financial Aid* (FAFSA), specify Stock number 2404 on the DANTES Material Request Form. The accompanying booklet, *Funding Your Education*, describes all the Federal student aid programs available and is a good overview. The DANTES Stock number for *Funding Your Education* is 2405. The limit on both of these items is 500 per year.

Keep in mind that those applying for federal student aid can do so online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. The U. S. Department of Education encourages students to apply online.

For questions on federal student aid, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.





## DoD Worldwide Education Symposium

Orlando World Center Marriott Resort & Convention Center  
Orlando, Florida ♦ July 7-11, 2003

## REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline June 7, 2003

**Registration forms WILL NOT be  
processed without FULL PAYMENT**

**TO REGISTER:** (Online registration is preferred at <http://www.ww-003.com/Registration.htm>).

**Fax** completed registration form with full payment information to (757) 357-5108

**Mail** completed registration form with full payment to TMC Design Corporation, P.O. Box 2218, Suffolk, VA 23432

*\*This is how it will appear on your conference badge*

### 1. CONTACT INFORMATION:

\* ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Dr. Military Rank \_\_\_\_\_

\*First Name \_\_\_\_\_ \*Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

\*Agency/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code / Number / Commercial Only

Area Code / Number / Commercial Only

### 2. HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

I have confirmed hotel reservations at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort and Convention Center

Arrival Date  Departure Date

### 3. REGISTRATION SPECIFICS:

☐ \$185.00 Registration Fee on or before June 7, 2003

☐ \$200.00 Late Registration Fee (after June 7, 2003) or on-site

**GUEST TICKETS AVAILABLE:** Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$10.00 Guest Ticket (adult only) - Exhibit Hall Gala Opening, July 7, 2003

### 4. PAYMENT:

Registration forms WILL NOT be processed without FULL PAYMENT

Please make checks payable to **TMC Design Corporation** and mail payment to P.O. Box 2218, Suffolk, VA 23432

If you are using a credit card the charge will appear on your statement as **TMC Design Corporation**

Payment Enclosed ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*I agree to pay the above total amount according to the card issuer*

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Policy:** • Cancellations **must** be received in writing by June 7, 2003, to qualify for a partial refund • Registrants paying by credit card will have their account credited • Prepaid no shows or early departures will not be refunded • Registrants who determine that they cannot attend the Symposium will receive refunds, less \$25.00 processing fee per registrant, provided a letter requesting the refund containing the registrant's name and to whom the check should be made payable is sent to (not later than June 7): TMC Design Corporation, Symposium Registration Office, P.O. Box 2218, Suffolk, VA 23432, Fax: (757) 357-5108, E-mail: [WW03info@aol.com](mailto:WW03info@aol.com)

Current as of August 12, 2002

# Symposium Schedule at a Glance

## Sunday, 6 July

- 1 - 5 p.m. ----- Military Service Meeting (U.S. Marine Corps)
- 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ----- MGIB Meeting
- 2 - 3:30 p.m. ----- Reserve Component Education Panel (RCEP) meeting
- 1 - 6 p.m. ----- Symposium Registration

## Monday, 7 July

- 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ----- Exhibitor Setup
- 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. ----- Registration
- 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. ----- Military Service Meetings (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, USCG, ARNG, Reserves)
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ----- Webster University Directors Meeting
- 1 - 5 p.m. ----- Workshops (Myers-Briggs & Kuder)
- 6 - 9 p.m. ----- Gala Opening of Exhibit Hall: "Evening in the Tropics"

## Tuesday, 8 July

- 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. ----- Registration
- 8 - 12 noon ----- Opening General Session
- 12 noon - 7 p.m. ----- Exhibit Hall Open
- 1 - 5 p.m. ----- SOC Advisory Board Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. ----- Concurrent Sessions
- 6 - 7:30 p.m. ----- American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU) Reception

## Wednesday, 9 July

- 7:30 - 11 a.m. ----- Registration
- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ----- Concurrent Sessions
- 8 - 11:30 a.m. ----- SOCAD Advisory Committee Meeting
- 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. ----- Exhibit Hall Open
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. -- DANTES Education Services Advisory Panel (DESAP) Meeting
- 12 noon - 1 p.m. ----- Roundtable Focus Groups
- 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ----- Troops to Teachers State Directors Meeting
- 7 - 9 p.m. ----- SOCCOAST Institutional Representatives Meeting

## Thursday, 10 July

- 8 a.m. - 12 noon ----- Concurrent Sessions
- 12 noon - 1 p.m. ----- Roundtable Focus Groups
- 1:30 - 4 p.m. ----- Closing General Session: Featured Speaker is Dr. Constantine Curris, President, American Association of State Colleges and Universities

## Friday, 11 July

- 8 a.m. - 12 noon ----- Service Meetings (Air Force, Army, US Coast Guard, Navy Recruiting, Army National Guard)

Go to the Symposium Web site at <http://www.ww-003.com> for schedule updates.

## A growing phenomenon

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

Wow! We have an unprecedented number of Exhibitors reserved to Exhibit at WW03! We presently have more than 110 reserved booths and the numbers just keep climbing! The Exhibitor list reads like a virtual "Who's who" of Voluntary Education institutions, programs, services, and products. To see the listing of WW03 Exhibitors, visit <http://www.ww-003.com/Exhibits.htm>.

Exhibiting at WW03 provides the unique opportunity to both display programs/services and to network with other leaders in VolEd in the beautiful Crystal Ballroom at the World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida.

On 7 July 2003, at 6 p.m. our DOD VolEd community will celebrate the Grand Opening of the WW03 Exhibit Hall with the theme "Evening in the Tropics." All WW03 attendees

are invited to wear tropical attire (shirts, dresses) and enjoy the festivities while being entertained by a live performance of steel drummers and, of course, to see all the interesting Exhibits! Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

It's not too late! If you know of an institution, product, or service of interest and value to the WW03 attendees that is theme-related (Lifelong Learning: Enhanced Readiness for the Nation), please encourage them to join us as a WW03 Exhibitor. Due to limited space at WW00, we had an Exhibitor waiting list. WW03 Exhibit Booth space is also limited, so don't delay. Come be a part of this growing phenomenon. Apply to exhibit today. Note: **Exhibitor application deadline is 1 March 2003.** Please pass the word.

In honor of President's Day (17 February), a quote from our 16<sup>th</sup> President:

Q:  
How many  
Exhibit Booths  
have been reserved  
for WW03?

A:  
Visit-  
[www.ww-003.com](http://www.ww-003.com)



"Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in."

*Abraham Lincoln, First  
Political Announcement  
New Salem, Illinois,  
March 9, 1832*

**Do you have a Success Story?**  
E-mail me at [jokeefe@voled.doded.mil](mailto:jokeefe@voled.doded.mil).



Visit our new web site at  
<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

# DANTES INFORMATION

## DANTES

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The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing policy committee.

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Lynn Owens, Editor

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